Vol. V. Numb. 43.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Sailing of the Deſcent *Squadron. The* High-Flyers *Mad and Bewitch'd. Coffee-Houſe Talk. The* High-Flyers *Talk of the* Deſcent. *The* Deſcent *Vindicated. The King of* Babel *taken Priſoner by the* Rehearſal. *Queen* Copple *ſits upon one Egg.*

From Saturday Auguſt the 10th, to Wednesday Auguſt the 14th, 1706.

Country-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, I don't know what we ſhall do, we are quite Barren of News. Our Fleet is come back again to St. *Helens*, with all the Tranſports; but I thank God we have now a *Proteſtant Wind*, and I hope by the next Letters from *Portſmouth* to hear that they are Sail'd again.

Obſ. And then in a ſhort time after we ſhall hear of ſome-Body being *Bewitch'd*.

Country-m. Bewitch'd, Maſter, all the *High-Flyers* about Town are *Bewitch'd* already; nay, they are downright *Raving Mad*. We may juſtly take out a Commiſſion of *Lunacy* againſt 'em All, and ſeize upon their Eſtates; I think 'twould be one way to maintain the Charge of the *War*. They are *Mad* whether the Deſcent *will go*; and the People, their Friends, at 'tother ſide of the Water, are *Mad* to know where the Deſcent *will come*, and we are *Mad* if we tell 'em; but let 'em Land where they will, I'll lay my Cap to a Turnip they'll make Mad Work with ſome-Body.

I was 'tother Day at a Coffee-Houſe, and in comes a *Jack*, and ſitting down juſt by me; ſaid he, *Honeſt Country-man, I ſuppoſe you have been reading the News*; *what*, ſays he, *is become of the* Diſſenters? Maſter, quo' I, the *Diſſenters* are juſt where they were. In thoſe Pariſhes where we have Honeſt *Church-Miniſters*, that Preach *Chriſt* and him Crucify'd, that apply themſelves to the Exerciſe of their *Miniſterial Function*, that don't meddle with *State Affairs*, Vote for *Tackers*, Oppoſe the Queen in Oppoſing Her Friends, in thoſe Pariſhes we have *no Diſſenters* at all; but where the looſe *Black-Coats*, in Harmony with the *Varſity*, do Oppoſe *Vertue*, and Encourage *Vice*, there we have a Power of *Diſſenters*, and the *Church leans* like that in *Suffolk*.

Quoth he, *Country-man, thou art miſtaken*; *by the* Diſſenters *I mean thoſe People going on the* Deſcent we *know not* when *nor* whether.

Quo' I to him, Gaffer, I find you are given to *Punning*, and I am told 'tis Cuſtomary, among *Scholards*, when one of the Party pretends to ſhow his Wit in a *Pun*, for the reſt to Kick his Shins, but 'tis the Cuſtom of us Country Folks to break their Heads; I have a good mind to ſerve thee ſo, and rub thee down handſomely with my *Oaken-Towel*; but thou art a Forlorn Wretch, and can'ſt do our good Queen and Government no Miſchief. *You* know *when* they go, and *where* they go, you be Hang'd for a *Varment*. You'll know it to the Sorrow of your Heart Blood and Guts in a ſhort time. I proteſt, Maſter, he Sneer'd and Snigger'd me into a Ruſtick Paſſion, ſo that my *Towel* ſtood bolt an End at'n.

But, Maſter, 'tis the common Practice of theſe Fellows to Banter and Rail at the *Deſcent*. I heard one Saucy Fellow ſay, *That there was not one Honeſt Man employ'd in the* Deſcent *but Mr.* Commiſſary. Aye, ſaid I, and that's a ſpecial good one too; but I hope there will be no *Rye* found in that Country to mix with the *Wheat*. And, quo' I, you'll find ſuch Honeſt Men employ'd in the *Deſcent*, as will manage a Pack of Knaves to their utter Confuſion.

I proteſt, Maſter, I can't help ſpeaking at theſe things: The Tongues of our Enemies are looſe, and ours are ty'd. Was it not an abominable thing, 'tother Day, for a *Purſer* of one of the Queens Ships to affirm that *No Honeſt Man could juſtifie the* Deſcent; and *that it is not Lawful for one Prince to raiſe a Rebellion among the Subjects of another Prince?* He was like to ha' been Towel'd for his Pains, and I think 'tis pitty he was not.

Obſ. Theſe are *Home Enemies* I hinted at the laſt time I met; theſe are the Men that do us as much Miſchief as our *Foreign Enemies*; that get into Offices under the Queen on purpoſe to Embarraſs Her Government.

Country-m. But, Maſter, pray what is your Opinion of the *Deſcent*, is it Lawful or not? Let me know your Thoughts on this Head, that I may be able to talk with theſe Wicked Men.

Obſ. Without doubt Her Majeſty fully conſider'd this Point as She's a *Queen* and a *Chriſtian*; She has all along Travel'd in the Paths of *Righteouſneſs* and *Juſtice*, with a tender Regard to the Good of Her People and Her Allies; and by how much She is more Eminent than any of Her Predeceſſors, by ſo much is She the more hated by the Enemies of *Liberty* and *Property* and the *Proteſtant Religion*.

Two great things Her Majeſty has begun, and Heaven ſeems to favour the Enterprize in both, I mean, *The Deſtruction of* French *Tyranny*, and *a Union with* Scotland; both which are equally *Good* and *Glorious*, *Juſt* and *Righteous*: The Accompliſhment of which, as it will be for the Good of *Europe*, and the Peace and Happineſs of Her own Dominions, ſo will it give Her a Name in the *Engliſh* Annals, and the Records of Time, Superiour to that of the moſt Celebrated Worthies. Did you ever know *Conſummate Vertue* free from *Obloquies* and *Oppoſition* of Evil Men? Did you ever know great Actions attempted without their *Envy*, or perform'd without their *Malice*? Is not Her Majeſties Glorious Predeceſſor an Inſtance hereof? But let whoſoever place themſelves in *the Seat of the Scorners*, as Her Majeſties Actions are founded on the Solid Baſis of *Truth* and *Equity*, ſo Heaven, and all good Men approves of 'em; one by giving *Succeſſes unknown to former times*, and the other, by their *Univerſal Applauſe* and *Conſent*, not confin'd

fin'd to the Scanty Limits of *Britain*, but *own'd throughout the Universe.*

Now, *Roger*, if you would have me give my Opinion in the Caſe of the *Deſcent*, you ſhould have Stated that Caſe fairly, *What the Deſign of the Embarkment is; upon what Terms, and for what Ends and Purpoſes they go*, and this, *Roger*, you know nothing off; and it was but Saucineſs in the Queens *Purſer* to accuſe his Miſtreſs of *Injuſtice* in a thing of which Her Majeſty had been pleaſed, as yet, to conceal Her Royal Intentions. But ——

Country-m. Not one Word, good Maſter, of the Wiſdom of the *Admiralty*. I ſee a Sea Rope hang at one Corner of your Mouth.

Obſ. Time may be when it ſhall come out. Put then, *Roger*, let us come to the General Point. It is certainly Lawful for Princes in War with one another to Invade one anothers Countries, but more eſpecially for the Queen of *England* to do ſo in this War; becauſe, beſides the Reaſons of *Policy* in ſtreightening the Enemy, touching him in the Senſible part, and bringing the Offencive Forces of his Empire to defend at Home, Her Majeſty has a Juſt Claim, as I formerly ſaid, to ſome part of the Lands now in the *French* Kings Poſſeſſion, and ſo Sues for Her own.

This has been the Practice of *all* Princes, *Popiſh*, *Proteſtant*, or *Heathen*, when they have been in War one with another. It was ſo in the Caſe of *Rochell*, tho' I am aſham'd to mention that Story. It was ſo in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, when She aſſiſted the *Hollanders*. And many more Inſtances might be added, could *Reaſon* or *Fact* convince the *Sons of Calumny*.

The occaſion of the preſent War was the *Uſurpations* of the *French* King on the Subjects of ſeveral Princes, particularly on the Subjects of *Spain*. Now we have, by Experience, found that *Europe* cannot be ſafe till the *Exorbitant Power* of *France* is reduc'd; and this cannot be done till the People of *Europe* are Free, and in the Poſſeſſion of their *Antient Rights*. I have more than once told you, that to maintain the *Ballance of Europe*, is to keep all Princes within their Juſt Bounds, ſo that they ſhall make no Encroachments on the *Lands* of *Lawful Soveraigns*, or the *Liberties* of their *People*, and when they attempt to do ſo, 'tis the Duty of all Princes to fall upon them: Nor is the Caſe alter'd when they *Uſurp* on the *Liberties* of *their* People. This is the firſt Step advanced towards the Deſtruction of their Neighbours *Liberties*; for no ſtop can be put to *Ambition*, but the weakening of the *Ambitious Prince*.

You never yet found but a *Tyrannical Prince wanted a good Title*; for where the Titles of a Soveraign is *Clear* and *Undoubted*, he may always reckon himſelf ſafe among his own People; they are his Guards and his Armies againſt Invaders; but a *Wrong Title is always ſupported by Tyranny*; what is procured by *Fraud* muſt be ſupported by *Force*; and Lawful Soveraigns may well eſteem it their Duty to reſcue Subjects Enſlav'd from the Violence of a *Uſurper*. I thank God we have done it in *Spain* already, and hope, in his good time, to do it in *France*. The Caſe is ſo clear I need ſay no more to that Point. What ſays the *Rehearſer* this Week?

Country-m. He has made a *Deſcent* upon the *Jewiſh* Territories, and has taken the King of *Babel* Priſoner, and has brought him over to Encounter Mr. *Foe* for ſaying, *There was no King in that Confuſion*. I wiſh Mr. *Foe* ben't put into the *Crown-Office*, and have an Information brought againſt him in the *Hebrew Tongue*, by Mr. *Attorney-General Leſley*, for ſpeaking Treaſon againſt His Majeſty of *Babel*, according to the 45. of King *Adam* and Queen *Eve*, Cap. 50. the King of *Babel* will appear in Court as Evidence himſelf, with a Hod of *Mortar* on his Shoulder as an Enſign of *Royalty*.

Obſ. What doſt make the King of *Babel* a *Bricklayer* or *Labourer?*

Country-m. Maſter, I miſtook; he was a *Bricklayer*, and ought to have a *Trowel* in his Hand. Look, de'ye ſee, Maſter, the *Prieſt* will be too hard for the *Poet*. I am ſorry for it, but the Point is as plain as a Cats Foot. The *Engineer*, *Architect*, Chief *Bricklayer*, or what you pleaſe to call him, was King of all the *Bricklayers*, *Stone-Cutters*, *Plaiſterers*, and *Labourers* at the Building of *Babel*. Had there not been a *Chief*, whoſe Direction the reſt followed, there could be no regular Proportion in the Building, every Man would have done what was right in his own Eyes; would ha' laid his *Stone* or his *Brick*, temper'd his *Cement*, or ſpread his *Mortar*, as he pleaſed: Now where there is a Chief, there is a King.

Obſ. At that rate thou'lt make Sir C—— *Wren* King of *Pauls*, and Prince of *Greenwich* Hoſpital.

Country-m. You don't, or won't underſtand me. I am not ſpeaking of *England*. I talk Hiſtorically of things done a Power of Hundreds of Years ago. There was a King of *Babel*, that's for certain, I am now convinc'd, for the reaſons aforeſaid, and Mr. *Review* is Nonpluſh'd.

Obſ. Prithee, what was the King of *Babel*'s Name?

Country-m. I can't tell that, but I'll aſk Dr. *Leſley*; he has got his Pedigree by him.

Obſ. Has the *Rehearſal* nothing to ſay to me?

Country-m. No, Maſter, you ſtop'd his Mouth with one of his *High-Church Lies* about a *High-Church Army*. But he'll be at you again as ſoon as his Queen *Coppleshas* Hatch'd, who ſits now upon one Egg. Thinks I, tother Day, this Project of *Hereditary Right* may be quite *Addl'd*, tho' Her Feather'd Majeſty ſhould Hatch her Egg; for, ſuppoſe, that Egg ſhould have *two Yolks*, and ſhould bring *two Chickens*, which of them has the *Divine Right* to Government?

Obſ. The Chick that is firſt Hatch'd.

Country-m. That may'nt be neither; for the Hen Chick may be firſt Hatch'd, and according to the firſt of *Adam* and *Eve* Cap. 1. commonly called the *Sallique Law*, the Male and not the Female was to Govern; and you know the Adminiſtration of the Government was veſted in *Adam* and not in *Eve:* And ſuppoſe ſhe ſhould Hatch two *Cock* Chickens, and they ſhould pop out of the Shell exactly at the ſame time, muſt not they Govern then like the two Kings of *Brentford?* —— But, Maſter, we muſt ha' done, 'tis Ten a Clock, King *Chanticleer* has Crow'd his firſt time; let us go to Bed with a Bumper of *October*.

Obſ. Good Night *Roger*.

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